

**Sierra Club of Pennsylvania, Southeastern PA Group Executive Committee Meeting**  
**January 7, 2015**  
**Meeting held at CityCoHo, 2401 Walnut Street**

**Attending:** Bill Brainerd, Dennis Winters, Emily Davis, Jim Wylie, Mathew Himmelein, Karen Melton, Gary Lytle, Dave Moscatello, Pat Beaudet, Anne Lovett, Robin Mann, Mike Hoppus, John Butler, Jon Paul Jawarski

**By phone:** Len Finegold

The Meeting was called to order by Ann Lovett at 6:50.

**Secretary:** Minutes were approved as emailed

**Treasurer:** Donations of \$2630 were received from the end of the year appeal. The balance in the C4 account is \$3482. The Treasurer's report was approved.

**Standing Committee Reports**

*Newsletter/Communications:* Mat and Brian administer our facebook page. Mat has been reposting articles to it. Jon Paul has administrative rights to the Bucks County page. Pat would like ideas for articles for the next newsletter by February 4<sup>th</sup>.

*Conservation Committee:* Jim proposed that we have a separate meeting to identify issues the we will work on in the coming year. The meeting will have three specific goals: to identify issues; to identify a leader or leaders for each issue and to identify volunteers to work on addressing each issue. Jim will send out an email to everyone to identify the date for this meeting.

*Political Committee:* Important dates for the primary are March 10 – petitions due and May 19 – election day. The committee is looking for new members. Mat said he would join.

*Education Committee:* Several members were concerned about the focus on Nuclear energy at the next Education program and wanted to make sure the Sierra Club position was presented. Jeff Schmidt is willing to present the Sierra Club's position and its rationale. Jim moved and seconded that Jeff be added to the program. Dennis seconded. The motion passed with 1 abstention. It was felt that a program that provides background information should include a statement of the club's position. To make sure this happens, Jim moved that education program topics be approved by the excom. Mat seconded. The motion passed with one no vote and one abstention. Dave said he would be willing to speak on renewable energy in southeastern PA.

*Nomination Committee:* Members of the SPG executive Committee for 2015 are: Pat Beaudet, Bill Brainerd, John Butler, Len Finegold, Mathew Himmelein, Mike Hoppus, Jon Paul Jawarski, Anne Lovett, Dave Moscatello, Dennis Winters, and Jim Wylie

**Old Business:**

**Fund raising:** (Bill) The appeal letter raised \$2630. Pat said there are still calendars available as some donors did not want this premium.

**Pheonixville Trees:** Jon Paul followed up with this issue

Meeting Attendance: There was discussion about removal of members from the excom. The rule is that a member can be removed if he or she misses 3 consecutive meetings but the excom may choose not to do this.

### **New Business:**

Energy Hub: Members from a coalition of groups is meeting on January 24 to strategized plans to counter the intention to create an energy hub in Philadelphia with plans for the creation of a sustainable energy hub at Philadelphia. Several SPG members plan to attend.

Engaging more members / refocusing Group activities: Several ideas were discussed about expanding participation and impact.

1. There was discussion about creating sub-groups in each of the counties. This would allow more opportunities for participation and the ability to focus on local issues like the Pheonixville tree issue. The Chester County group can be a model. Members of the excom would assist in coordinating activities and report to the excom about events and activities. Excom members who live (or work) in a particular county would help co-ordinate county-level activities.
2. Increasing opportunities for outdoor activities such as hikes or paddles. This could be done at the county level as well group level.
3. It was also suggested that we could connect with other organization. Members could join / participate and then report back to the excom. Again, this could be done at the county level as well group level like the GSK sustainability committee or at the group level for local chapters of groups like Food and Water Watch or 350.org. Some members are active (Robin – Green Cities & Eastwick Friends or Dennis with DVRPC and Clean Air. We should send Anne suggestions of groups with which we should connect.

Youth Group Training: Jim reported that there is a training opportunity for groups that which to work in expending involvement of young people. We would need to put together a team for this training.

### **Announcements:**

Next Meeting: February 4, 2015

Dennis, Bill and Robin with be our delegates to the Chapter meeting

Event: Earth Story / Our Story: Discussion on this event (Feb 7 2015) sponsored by Interfaith Power and Light was deferred until the next meeting.

### **Reminders:**

#### ***Conservation Committee Member Specialties:***

- MTR – Jim Wylie
- Energy Conservation & Efficiency – John Butler
- Wind – PTC support – Gillian Norris
- AEPS support – Karen Melton
- Water – Robin Mann
- Smog – Gary Lytle/Jackie Wilson

- Transportation – Dennis Winters
- Land Use – Dennis Winters

**Meeting Call-in Number:**

1-866-501-6174, PIN is 1004100#.